

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Haines Chapel and Cemetery

Other names/site number: South Mountain Cemetery; DHR # 081-7102

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 2600 Tye River Turnpike (Route 56)

City or town: Vesuvius State: Virginia County: Rockbridge

Not For Publication:

Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria.

I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

 national statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

 A B XC D

Signature of certifying official/Title:

Date

Virginia Department of Historic Resources

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property x meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official:

Date

Title : State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register
☐ determined eligible for the National Register
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register
☐ removed from the National Register
☐ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private: ☒
- Public – Local ☐
- Public – State ☐
- Public – Federal ☐

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s) ☒
- District ☐
- Site ☐
- Structure ☐
- Object ☐

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RELIGION: Church

FUNERARY: Cemetery

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RELIGION: Church

FUNERARY: Cemetery

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

No Style

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property:

Foundation: Concrete

Walls: Wood, Vinyl

Roof: Metal

Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph

Haines Chapel, in Rockbridge County, Virginia, (also partly in Nelson County), is a small, wood-frame, vernacular house of worship sited in a remote, mountainous location near the Blue Ridge Parkway. The chapel's interior features extensive handcrafted original woodwork including flooring, matchstick wall cladding, chair rails, and altar, as well as a brass chandelier with six oil lamps and an antique piano and organ. A cemetery founded in the late eighteenth century, containing an unknown number of graves, surrounds the chapel to the south and west. Both marked and unmarked gravestones are present. A deteriorated one-seat outhouse (privy) with shed roof is located immediately to the northwest of the church. The privy's poor condition precludes any use and there are no plans to preserve it, therefore it is identified as a non-contributing building. A wooden post-and-beam picnic shelter (non-contributing structure), erected after 1980, is located approximately 145 feet southeast of the chapel.

Narrative Description

Site Description

Haines Chapel itself is mostly in Nelson County, but nearly all of the associated cemetery and roughly 90 percent of the overall parcel lies in Rockbridge County, near the very northeast corner of the county. The parcel deed is recorded in Rockbridge County, and Nelson County has no information on the parcel in its real estate records. The Augusta County line runs only about 1050 feet northwest of the chapel. The chapel site is in a clearing surrounded by dense forest. The chapel stands just 1135 feet west of the Blue Ridge Parkway, but is accessed via Tye River

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Turnpike (Route 56) to the .24-mile-long entrance drive. The entire site is open to the public and is frequented by picnickers traveling along the Parkway.

Chapel Exterior

Haines Chapel, completed in 1914, is a small, 28-by-38-foot frame building with a front-gable roof, two front entrances, and three-bay side elevations. A shed-roofed addition extends the building an additional 11 feet to the rear and incorporates men's and women's bathrooms with rudimentary plumbing and a storage area. The previous bathroom facility survives, in very poor condition, in the form of a one-seat, shed-roofed, frame outhouse located off the northwest corner of the chapel. The church building features an original continuous concrete foundation, intact weatherboard cladding covered with vinyl siding, a hip-roofed porch with wooden deck across the front, and a hand-crimped standing-seam metal roof. An external concrete-block stove flue stands toward the rear corner of the west elevation. The fascia, soffit and rake boards along the main roof and porch roof eaves and the window shutters are painted dark green, providing contrast against the white siding background. A sign reading "Haines Chapel United Methodist Church" hangs in the front gable field. Beneath the porch roof, three picture frames containing historical information hang between the two front doors. The front elevation has no windows. Each side elevation has three original window openings with one-over-one vinyl sash, which recently replaced the original two-over-two wooden sash seen in historic photographs. The two front doors are late 20th-century replacements.

Chapel Interior

The chapel's nave-plan interior is exceptionally well preserved. The pews, arranged in three sections with two middle aisles, are all alike and demonstrate traditional hand craftsmanship. The hardwood boards are hand-planed and joined with cut nails (a few wire nails were added later for stability). The use of cut nails, which became generally less common than wire nails after the 1890s, suggests that the pews might have been acquired from an earlier church. The 4 ½-inch-wide heart pine floorboards show a good deal of use and are darkened from being treated with oil (linseed oil was a traditional floor preservative). The walls and ceiling are clad with perfectly straight two-inch-wide, beaded, pine matchboards. The walls are divided by a waist-high, five-inch-wide chair rail consisting of multiple layers of ogee moldings. Below the chair rail is a wainscot of vertical matchboards; above the chair rail the boards are applied horizontally. The ceiling boards are oriented with the length of the building (front to back). The chapel has never been wired for electricity, thus antique oil lamps continue to be the sole source of lighting. Sconces hang from each wall and a brass chandelier with six oil lamps hangs from the ceiling. Lighting the chandelier lamps appears to have been a laborious process. The altar at the back of the chapel occupies a raised semi-circular platform about six inches high, and is cordoned behind a semi-circular balustrade with slender turned balusters, molded hand rail, and robust square newels at each end. The lectern stands behind the altar on the main platform, but is further elevated on another semi-circular six-inch-high platform. Flanking the larger (lower) platform, against the rear wall of the chapel, are an organ and a piano, both of which are antique and have been in the chapel as long as anyone can remember. The well-preserved organ, to the left of the lectern, is kept in a removable wire-mesh enclosure to fend off small rodents. The piano is also in good condition. A wood stove situated near the west wall is the only source of heat in the chapel. The stove is vented through the concrete-block exterior flue on the west elevation.

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Cemetery

The unenclosed cemetery appears to have begun as a family plot beginning in the late 18th century. It later became associated with the South Mountain Chapel, erected at the site in 1835. The cemetery, which occupies about one acre of the 2.8-acre parcel, surrounds the chapel to the south and west, and contains an unknown number of graves. The earliest marked graves are those of Joel and Nancy Hight, who died in 1793 and 1794, respectively. Their graves are marked by uninscribed headstones, but are augmented by a granite memorial dating to the mid-late 20th century. The earliest legible death date on an original marker is that of Ambrose Campbell, who died in 1857. There are over 100 marked graves in the cemetery, with most of the engraved stones still legible; but a number of graves—primarily in the northwestern part of the site where the ground surface is higher and flatter—are marked only with un-inscribed fieldstones. There is also a high probability of unidentified, completely unmarked graves further to the northwest, around the current periphery of the clearing. The gravestones that date to the late 19th and early 20th centuries are the most ornate, with several possessing considerable artistic value. Regional funerary art motifs and symbols are well represented. The largest memorials, those of Jeviette E. Hite (d.1910) and Mary S. Hite (d. 1911), are more than six feet tall and made of marble, with square, stepped bases, obelisk-like shafts and pronounced caps topped with lanterns. Other grave stones take the form of squared slabs or tall, slender tablets with rounded tops. Some gravestones lie flat in the ground and nearly buried. Although newer interments are few, the cemetery remains open for burial.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☐ A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☒ A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- ☐ B. Removed from its original location
- ☐ C. A birthplace or grave
- ☒ D. A cemetery
- ☐ E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- ☐ F. A commemorative property
- ☐ G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1793—1955

Significant Dates

1793

1914

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

Haines Chapel, completed in 1914, is nominated under Criterion C in the area of Architecture/Craftsmanship, at the local level of significance. The chapel's significance lies chiefly in its unvarnished representation of an early-twentieth-century vernacular meeting house located high in the Blue Ridge Mountains, in an area that remains undeveloped and sparsely populated to this day. Significance is also embodied in the church's remarkably undisturbed interior finishes, which demonstrate unusually fine local craftsmanship. The associated cemetery, containing marked and unmarked graves, predates the existing chapel by more than a century and is eligible as a contributing site, its significance owing not only to the long record of deceased individuals it presents, but also to the regional forms of funerary art and symbolic motifs represented on the grave markers. Criteria Considerations A, for religious institutions, and D, for cemeteries, are applicable because the significance of the chapel and cemetery is not based on their religious associations. The period of significance for the site begins with the earliest known interment, that of Joel Hight in 1793, and ends in 1955, the year regular worship services are known to have ceased at Haines Chapel.

Acknowledgements

Mr. Don Bradley provided access to the chapel, and he and Ms. Kimberley Bradley provided information incorporated herein.

Narrative Statement of Significance

Though the cemetery surrounding Haines Chapel existed previously as a family plot, the history of church buildings on the premises begins in 1835, the year George Hight (or Hite) transferred the 2 ½-acre parcel from his possession to the trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church on South Mountain "to be used as a Methodist Church and for no other purpose." Hight was himself a trustee, along with James Cash, Howell Humphries, John Kiger, John and Frederick Albright, and David Shewy.¹ George Hight was born in King and Queen County, Virginia, in 1755. His father, John, moved the family to present-day Nelson County (then Botetourt County) in 1776. During the American Revolution, George enlisted in Captain Caswallander Jones' Third Regiment of Light Dragoons in 1777 and fought for the colonies, but was severely wounded at a battle near Hackensack, New Jersey. He survived, but was taken prisoner during a march in South Carolina, where he was imprisoned on a ship in Charleston Harbor and later sent to Jamestown in exchange for British prisoners. He rejoined the cavalry and continued to serve throughout the revolution. He settled on South Mountain, near the present site of Haines Chapel, by 1782.² George Hight died in 1837 and is interred at Haines Chapel Cemetery, though the precise location of his grave is unknown.³

South Mountain Methodist-Episcopal Church, as it was then known, was first on the Lexington preacher's circuit. In the conference year of 1835, the preacher received a salary of \$3.50. In

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1837 the preacher in charge, Reverend John C. Lynn, was paid \$28.56. In 1849 the Fairfield circuit was established and South Mountain Church was included.⁴

About 1870, after the South Mountain Methodist-Episcopal Church had been in use for some 35 years, the congregation moved about two miles southeast to a more central location for its members. The church was led by local preacher Robert S. Hite, a great grandson of George Hight.⁵ Lack of membership, however, contributed to services being discontinued, while the cemetery at the original South Mountain location continued to slowly fill. In September 1911, a substantial donation by Mary Susan Groah Hite, wife of William J. Hite, was put toward erecting a new church or “chapel” at the original location, next to the cemetery. William Hite and David Fauber, both grandsons of George Hight, led the effort. Others also contributed funds and labor, and the new building was dedicated by the Methodist Episcopal Church in October 1914, with the Reverend Dr. Haines of New Jersey officiating. The chapel was named in his honor.⁶ Construction of the church and completion of its notable interior woodwork is believed to have been executed by local craftsmen, some of whom may have been church members.

Through the years since 1914, church membership again became depleted and regular services were discontinued. In 1955, when regular services ceased at the chapel, author Albert Cupp wrote in his *History of Methodism in Rockbridge County* that the chapel “thrived for some years and had a good Sunday school, but today (1955) about the only use that is made of it is a place to have funeral services for those who wish to be buried there. There have also been a number of weddings and homecomings on the site as well. The Methodist Episcopal Church has abandoned this mountainous field altogether...” A newspaper article published in June 1962 noted that the chapel had fallen into disrepair after most of its worshippers moved to cities, but the article was written to commemorate a church homecoming for which the chapel and grounds had been “all spruced up and ready for all their prodigals.”⁷

Today the chapel is well maintained by a small and diminishing group of trustees, but used only occasionally for various functions ranging from Easter Sunday Sunrise services to weddings and funerals. The building stands as a fine example of vernacular church design and its interior finishes are demonstrative of the hand-crafted workmanship once commonly seen in the region. The cemetery remains open to new burials.

Endnotes

1. Rockbridge County deed book entry, August 5, 1835.
2. George Hight pension application. Hailey, “South Mountain Meeting House Became Haines Chapel,” 2002.
3. George Hite grave information:
<http://www.findagrave.com/cgibin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=21035035>
4. Cupp, “History of South Mountain Church,” 1955.
5. Ibid.
6. Hailey, “Haines Chapel Built on Land from Hight Family,” 2002.
7. Norris Vancleave, “Haines Chapel Church and Cemetery All Dolled Up for Homecoming,” *Staunton News Leader*, 1962.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

Hailey, Vera. "South Mountain Meeting House Became Haines Chapel," Augusta Free Press, Summer 2002.

_____. "Haines Chapel Built on Land from Hight Family," 2002.

George Hight Pension Application. Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements, claim W19769. Copy in circulation among Haines Chapel trustees.

George Hight Service Records. *National Archives Publication Number: M881* "Compiled Service Records of Soldiers Who Served in the American Army During the Revolutionary War, 1775-1783." <http://sharing.ancestry.com/2161290?h=5ba175>. Retrieved July 12, 2013.

George Hight Grave Information. Retrieved July 12, 2013.
<http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=21035035>

Rockbridge County deed book entry: George Hight to the trustees of Methodist Episcopal Church, August 5, 1835. Deed Book T, page 12. Lexington Virginia.

Cupp, Albert "The History of South Mountain Chapel," excerpted from *The History of Methodism in Rockbridge County in Backroads* Vol. 8, No. 79, August 1988. Copy in circulation among Haines Chapel trustees.

Vancleave, Norris. "Haines Chapel Church and Cemetery All Dolled Up for Homecoming," *Staunton News Leader*, May 27, 1962.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ____ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ____ previously listed in the National Register
- ____ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ____ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ____ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ____ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- ____ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

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Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☐ Other

Name of repository: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, VA

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): DHR #081-7102

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2.874

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 37.888420 | Longitude: -79.154624 |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927 or ☐ NAD 1983

- | | | |
|----------|----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
|----------|----------|-----------|

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2. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
3. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
4. Zone:	Easting :	Northing:

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary of the nominated property is the same as the tax parcel boundary. The chapel/cemetery parcel is identified as 42-1-1C1 in Rockbridge County real estate tax records, shown on the accompanying tax parcel map.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary of the nominated property follows the chapel/cemetery tax parcel boundary, which has not changed since the end of the period of significance in 1962. The parcel includes the chapel and the entire cemetery.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Michael J. Pulice, Architectural Historian

organization: Virginia Department of Historic Resources

street & number: 962 Kime Lane

city or town: Salem state: VA zip code: 24153

e-mail: michael.pulice@dhr.virginia.gov

telephone: 540-387-5443

date: September, 2013

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

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- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photo Log

Name of Property: **Haines Chapel and Cemetery**

County: **Rockbridge** State: **Virginia**

Photographer: **Michael Pulice**

Date Photographed: **March 23, 2011**

Photo number and Description::

1 of 6. Haines Chapel and Cemetery facing northeast.

2 of 6. Haines Chapel and Cemetery facing north-northeast.

3 of 6. Haines Chapel and Cemetery facing west.

4 of 6. Haines Chapel interior facing north.

5 of 6. Haines Chapel interior detail (altar).

6 of 6. Haines Chapel interior facing south-southeast.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.